Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A virtual space system having a chat function, comprising:

at least two communicatively connected servers;

a virtual space control device coupled to the at least two communicatively connected servers, the virtual space control device including:

transmission holding means for holding latest position information of a transmitter in a virtual space and transmission region definition information for defining a transmission region as a closed region on one of the at least two communicatively connected servers that includes ~~at a side of~~ the transmitter,

reception object holding means for holding latest position information of a reception object and reception region definition information for defining a reception region as a closed region on another of the at least two communicatively connected servers that includes~~at a side of~~ the reception object; and

at least one chat storage file for storing only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter in the reception region or only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter when the reception object enters the transmission region, wherein a reception region use flag information is used to determine whether the reception region is used.

2. (previously presented): A virtual space system according to claim 1, wherein the reception object holding means further holds reception region use information indicating whether the reception region is used,

in a case where the reception region use information indicates that the reception region is not used, the at least one chat storage file stores only the contents of the chat issued from the transmitter when the reception object enters the transmission region, and

in a case where the reception region use information indicates that the reception region is used, the at least one chat storage file stores only the contents of the chat issued from the transmitter in the reception region.

3. (original): A virtual space system according to claim 2, wherein in a case where the reception region use information indicates that the reception region is not used, storage of the contents of the chat is made while relation to the reception object holding means which has entered the transmission region is established, and in a case where the reception region use information indicates that the reception region is used, the storage is made while relation to the reception object holding means relative to the reception region where the transmitter has entered is established.

4. (original): A virtual space system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission region and the reception region are closed regions defined by two-dimensional elements.

5. (original): A virtual space system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission region and the reception region are inner regions of polygonal columns each having a section of a polygon drawn on a horizontal plane in the virtual space.

6. (original): A virtual space system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission region and the reception region are inner regions of segmental columns each having a section of a segment drawn on a horizontal plane in the virtual space.

7. (original): A virtual space system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission region is defined while relation to the latest position information of the transmitter is established, and the reception region is defined while relation to the latest position information of the reception object is established.

8. (original): A virtual space system according to claim 1, further comprising a reception object control device for preparing and controlling the reception object,

wherein the latest position information of the reception object and the reception region definition information are set while relation to the reception object is established.

9. (currently amended): A virtual space control device for controlling a virtual space having a chat function, comprising:

transmission object holding means for holding latest position information of a transmitter in the virtual space and transmission region definition information for defining a transmission region as a closed region on a first server at a side of the transmitter; and

reception object holding means for holding latest position information of a reception object and reception region definition information for defining a reception region as a closed region on a second server at a side of the reception object,

wherein only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter in the reception region or only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter when the reception object enters the transmission region are stored in at least one chat storage file, and wherein a reception region use flag information is used to determine whether the reception region is used.

10. (currently amended): A control method of a virtual space having a chat function, comprising the steps of:

holding latest position information of a transmitter in the virtual space and transmission region definition information for defining a transmission region as closed region defined within a first server~~at a side of the transmitter~~;

holding latest position information of a reception object and reception region definition information for defining a reception region as a closed region defined within a second server~~at a side of the reception object~~; and

storing in at least one chat storage file only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter in the reception region or only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter when the reception object enters the transmission region, wherein a reception region use flag information is used to determine whether the reception region is used.

11. (currently amended): An information providing medium for providing a program which causes a computer to execute functions of:

holding latest position information of a transmitter in a virtual space and transmission region definition information for defining a transmission region as a closed region defined within a first server~~at a side of the transmitter~~;

holding latest position information of a reception object in the virtual space and reception region definition for defining a reception region as a closed region defined within a second server~~at a side of the reception object~~; and

storing in at least one chat storage file only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter in the reception region or only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter when the reception object enters the transmission region, wherein a reception region use flag information is used to determine whether the reception region is used.

12. (new): A virtual space system having a chat function, comprising:

a first server;

a second server communicatively connected to the first server, the first and second servers configured to establish a virtual space, the virtual space including a first user object associated with the first server and a second user object associated with the second server;

a virtual space control device communicatively connected to at least one of the first and second servers, the virtual space control device including:

transmission holding means for holding first position information relating to the location of the first user object in the virtual space and transmission region definition information that defines a closed transmission region in the virtual space; and

reception object holding means for holding second position information relating to the location of the second user object in virtual space and reception region definition information that defines a closed reception region in the virtual space; and

a chat storage file configured to store a chat communication between the first user object and the second user object when the first user object is located within the closed transmission region and the second user objects is located within the closed reception region.

13. (new) The virtual space system according to claim 12, wherein the first and second servers are communicatively coupled to a virtual space server configured to establish the virtual space.

14. (new) The virtual space system according to claim 12 further comprising a reception region use flag configured to indicate to the first user that the second user is located within the closed reception region.

15. (new) The virtual space system according to claim 14, wherein the reception region use flag is configured to activate the chat storage file when the reception region use flag defines a true state.